IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following section heading at page 1, before line 1:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following section headings at page 1, between line 2 and line 3:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

I. Field of the Invention

Please add the following section heading at page 1, between line 4 and line 5:

II. Description of Related Art

Please add the following section heading at page 2, before line 1:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 3 and 4, as follows:

~~Wmax_Wm_idle~~ Smax_Wm_idle represents a threshold value below which the engine speed indicates that the engine is at rest or idling;

Please add the following section heading at page 9, between line 9 and line 10:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following section heading at page 10, between line 2 and line 3:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraph at page 10, lines 18-21, as follows:

The computer 5 controlling the Automatic Parking Brake is connected by a suitable line with a slope sensor [[7]] 27. In other embodiments, information on the degree of slope being available on the bus 1, the sensor [[7]] 27 is replaced by an equivalent means which picks up that information from the data flow passing over the bus 1.

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 18 and 19, as follows:

By using the device of the invention, when the vehicle is stopped on a ramp, the slope sensor [[7]] 27 delivers a signal representing the degree of slope on which the vehicle is stopped.

Please amend the paragraph at page 12, lines 1-6, as follows:

As will be seen presently, the principle of the invention consists in determining an Automatic Parking Brake release condition, so that the computer 5 controlling the Automatic Parking Brake, depending on the slope measured by the sensor [[7]] 27 and on the engine speed presented on the bus 1, produces a command releasing the Automatic Parking Brake, so that with the slope effect being balanced by the engine torque, the vehicle can be in a starting position as soon as the threshold is exceeded.

Please amend the paragraph at page 22, lines 8-10, as follows:

If the test is positive, the control passes to a stage S6 in the course of which the computer 5 for control of the Automatic Parking Brake FPA gives a command authorizing release of the parking brake [[7]].

Please amend the paragraph at page 24, line 21, as follows:

D_Acc [[= =]] ≤ 0.

Please amend the paragraph at page 30, lines 13-19, as follows:

The second map memory 164 contains a threshold value from which the vehicle can be considered engaged on the transmitted torque estimation CT. For that purpose, the registers 160 and 161 are connected to first inputs of a first comparator 167 and a second comparator 168, the second inputs of which are respectively connected to output 169 of the first map memory 163 and output 170 of the second map memory 164. The outputs of the two comparators 167 and 168 are connected to inputs of an AND gate 171, the output of which is connected [[172]] to a release command 172.

Please amend the paragraph at page 35, lines 3-7, as follows:

The "horizontal" character of the terrain is defined by a test to determine whether the signal representing measurement of the angle of slope is less, in absolute value, than a threshold of angle of inclination or slope noted Smin_Slope_NonZero, said threshold being registered in an angle of slope threshold register, and said signal being produced by the slope sensor [[7]] 27 (Figure 1).

Please amend the paragraph at page 36, lines 15-18, as follows:

- a "horizontal" position detection circuit in order to detect that the signal representing the angle of inclination produced by the slope angle sensor [[7]] 27 is at absolute value less than a threshold value registered in a suitable register and representing the "horizontal" position limit;

Please amend the paragraph at page 37, line 22 to page 38, line 2, as follows:

- a circuit for detection of "descent in first gear," in order to detect that the signal representing the angle of inclination produced by the angle of slope sensor [[7]] 27 is less than a negative threshold value registered in a suitable register and representing the limit of "descent in first gear";

Please amend the paragraph at page 38, lines 18-21, as follows:

- a circuit for detection of "descent in reverse gear", in order to detect that the signal representing the angle of inclination produced by the angle of slope sensor [[7]] 27 is greater than a positive threshold value registered in a suitable register and representing the limit of "descent in reverse gear";

Please amend the paragraphs at page 40, lines 3-12, as follows:

The circuit for detecting excess pitch contains an input terminal that receives a signal produced by the angle of slope sensor [[7]] 27, which presents sufficient resolution for detecting excess pitch. The angle of inclination detection signal is transmitted to the input of a circuit for producing a signal representing the time derivative of the angle of inclination detection signal, the output of which is connected to an input of a comparator, the other input of which is connected to a register maintaining an excess pitch threshold value. The output of the comparator is active when the derivative of the signal representing the angle of inclination of the sensor [[7]] 27 is greater than the predetermined threshold.

In one embodiment, the excess pitch threshold value is produced by a generator of excess pitch threshold values as a function of the angle of inclination produced by the sensor [[7]] 27.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 41, line 6 to page 42, line 2, as follows:

The device for use of the method of invention contains for that purpose a circuit for calculating the time derivative D_Acc of the signal Theta_Acc of the degree of depression supplied by the angle of slope sensor [[7]] 27 (Figure 1). The circuit for calculation of the derivative D_Acc contains an output which is connected to a first input of a comparator, the other input of which is connected to a generator of a predetermined Threshold_Anticipate value, so that its output is active if the Threshold_Anticipate value is exceeded. The output signal of the comparator is then transmitted to a first input of another AND gate, the second input of which is connected to a circuit for detecting that the transmitted torque estimation ECT is in the process of incrementation, for example, by detecting the evolution of the counter CPTR (83, Figure 6). The output of the other AND gate is then used as anticipated release command of the Automatic Parking Brake.

In one particular embodiment, the predetermined threshold Threshold_Anticipate is a predetermined function dependent on the degree of slope measured by the angle of slope sensor [[7]] 27 (Figure 1).

The device for use of the invention contains for that purpose a generator of a predetermined threshold Threshold_Anticipate in the form of a table of threshold values addressed by the value of the degree of slope measured by the angle of slope sensor [[7]] 27. The Threshold_Anticipate value is then transmitted to the aforementioned comparator of the device of the invention.